

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTO 04139 060259Z

66/60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

OMB-01 AID-05 A-01 PER-05 SY-04 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 SCCT-02 FBIE-00 OC-06 USSS-00 TRSE-00

SCA-01 CCO-00 DRC-01 /121 W
----- 017597

O 052330Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1698

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 4139

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - P A R A N B R T H R E E

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: HUTCHINSON CASE - SUMMARY AND ASSESSMENT II

REF : SD 4044

1. ATTITUDE OF KIDNAPPERS AND HOSTAGES. DIRECT CONTACT WITH AND OBSERVATION OF MENDEZ VARGAS INDICATES THAT HE IS COMPOSED. THE CONDITION OF HIS WOUNDED COMRADE SEEMS TO BE OF CONTINUING CONCERN AS REVEALED BY HIS CONSTANT REFERENCE TO NEED FOR DOCTOR. HE MAKES POINT OF SAYING WITH EVIDENT SINCERITY THAT THEY ARE DOING WHAT THEY CAN TO MAKE HOSTAGES' CONDITION BEARABLE. AFTER INDICATIONS OF INCREASED STRAIN OBSERVED YESTERDAY, HUTCHINSON AND OTHERS' MORALE SEEMS TO BE HOLDING UP PRETTY WELL.

2. DEMANDS OF KIDNAPPERS. THE FIRST BREAK IN THE TEST OF WILLS CAME WITH THE SUBSTANTIAL SCALING DOWN OF TERRORISTS' DEMANDS TO POINT THERE GAP HAS NARROWED CONSIDERABLY. THERE IS MORE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTO 04139 060259Z

GIVE YET IN THE TERRORISTS' DEMANDS, I BELIEVE.

3. GODR POSITION. THE TERRORISTS' COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING THE REDUCED DEMANDS AND REASONS THEREFOR CONSTITUTED STRONG CONFIRMATION TO THE GOVT THAT IT WAS ON THE RIGHT TRACK. WE CAN EXPECT MORE OF THE SAME PRESSURE TACTICS AND ONLY RELUCTANT, IF ANY, RESPONSE TO OUR URGING FOR EASING OF THESE TACTICS ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. THE SCENARIO WE FORESAW IN THE PREVIOUS ASSESSMENT STILL HOLDS. A SPEED-UP MAY, HOPEFULLY, OCCUR NOW THAT DIRECT, PRIVATE COMMUNICATION HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE GOVT AND THE CAPTORS.

4. THE DOMINICAN MILITARY. THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND THE THREE SERVICE CHIEFS ARE NOW IN THE PICTURE AS ADVISORS TO THE PRESIDENT. THEY ADVOCATE A FIRM AND HARD LINE BUT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF LLUBERES, DO NOT ADVOCATE RASH ACTION. GENERAL GUZMAN AND THE NATIONAL POLICE REMAIN THE OPERATING ARM.

5. EMBASSY-GODR COMMUNICATION. THIS IS WORKING REASONABLY EFFECTIVELY.

6. TRI-PARTISM. TOGETHERNESS CONTINUES TO SERVE A POSITIVE PURPOSE ON SPECIFIC OCCASIONS. AS WE ALL HAVE BECOME A BIT WEARY, INCREASED SELF-DISCIPLINE HAS BEEN REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN THE GOOD-HUMORED ATMOSPHERE THAT PREVAILS.

7. PRESS RELATIONS. THE THREE BACKGROUNDERS I HAVE GIVEN TO THE US PRESS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN APPRECIATED.

8. ASSESSMENT. IN OUR LAST ASSESSMENT WE SAID THAT THE GOVT HAD THE UPPER HAND, CONSIDERABLE TIME WOULD BE NEEDED TO RECONCILE THE OPPOSING POSITIONS, BARRING THE UNEXPECTED THE HOSTAGES' LIVES WERE SECURE AND THE DANGER OF ILLNESS WAS OF MOST CONCERN. IN THE INTERVAL, THE GOVT'S POSITION HAS STRENGTHENED IN ABSOLUTE TERMS (IF BY NOTHING ELSE, THROUGH THE PASSAGE OF TIME) AND ESPECIALLY IN TERMS RELATIVE TO THE WEAKENED POSITION OF THE TERRORISTS. THE NARROWED GAP AND THE INITIATION OF DIRECT, PRIVATE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES HAS ENHANCED THE PROSPECT OF AN ACCELERATED DENOUEMENT, PERHAPS AS SOON AS THE END OF THIS COMING WEEK. THE DEGREE OF DANGER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANTO 04139 060259Z

TO THE HOSTAGES' LIVES FROM RASH ACTION ON EITHER SIDE HAS NOT MATERIALLY CHANGED, NOTWITHSTANDING THE GODR'S TACTICS OF PLACING PRESSURE UPON THE CAPTORS. GODR YIELDING HERE AND THERE TO OUR COLLECTIVE DEMARCHES REGARDING HEALTH CONDITIONS HAS EASED THE SITUATION SOMEWHAT. ON THE OTHER HAND, PASSAGE OF TIME HAS UNDERSTANDABLY ERODED SPIRITS OF THE HOSTAGES BUT NOT, I WOULD JUDGE, TO AN ALARMING DEGREE. THE VISIT OF A DOCTOR OF OUR CONFIDENCE AT SOME POINT SOON WOULD BE

REASSURING ON THAT SCORE. LOOKING AHEAD, THE STICKING POINT
IN THE "NEGOTIATIONS" WILL PROBABLY BE THE FATE OF PLINIO
MATOS. THE TERRORISTS WILL HOLD OUT FOR THEIR IDOL'S POLITICAL
ASYLUM ABROAD AND THE GOVT WILL RESIST THAT DEMAND. FAILURE
TO ACHIEVE MATOS' FREEDOM WILL SIGNIFY A MAJOR DEFEAT FOR THE
12 OF JANUARY AND HIGHLIGHT THE FUTILITY AND STUPIDITY OF
THE WHOLE INCIDENT--THIS IS PRECISELY WHAT THE GODR
DESIRES TO ACHIEVE FOR ITS OWN POLITICAL PURPOSES. I HAVE
BEEN CONSIDERING WHETHER SUCH AN IMPASSE COULD BE BROKEN BY
THE GOVT OFFERING TO "GUARANTEE THE LIFE OF MATOS AND SAFEGUARD
HIM AGAINST MALTREATMENT, IN TURN GUARNATEED BY THE THREE
NATIONS WHOSE NATIONALS ARE INVOLVED." IN OTHER WORDS,
OFFER FOR MATOS WHAT THE GODR HAS ALREADY OFFERED THECAPTORS--
WHILE MATOS REMAINS IN JAIL, OF COURSE. IT MAY BE A WAY OUT,
WITH THE CAPTORS LOSING MORE FACE THAN THE GOVT. AT THE
RIGHT TIME, I MAY PLANT THE THOUGHT IN GOVT MINDS.
HURWITCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, PARAMILITARY FORCES, POLITICAL SITUATION, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTO04139
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740283-0375
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741069/aaaacgtn.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SD 4044
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUTCHINSON CASE - SUMMARY AND ASSESSMENT II
TAGS: PINS, PDIP, DR, US, SP, VE, (HUTCHINSON, BARBARA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005